

EDUCATION DURING THE BUDDHISTIC PERIOD



- Buddhistic period in India roughly starts from 600 BC to 600 AD.
- During Vedic period, education was mostly individualistic effort whereas during Buddhistic period institutional organization is one of the chief characteristic of education
- Buddhistic education is based on the teachings of Gautam Buddha.

Siddhartha Gautama, the Lord Buddha, was born in 623 B.C. in Lumbini Garden situated in Nepal. He was the prince of Kapilavastu.

At the celebration of his birth, it was predicted that Siddhartha would either become a great king or a great holy man.



The Four Sights

Siddhartha felt that his life of luxury was empty. At the age of 29, he persuaded his chariot driver, Channa, to take him out of the palace to the city. There he encountered the **Four Sights**:

1. **An old person**
2. **A sick person**
3. **A dead person**
4. **A holy man (ascetic)**

Four Signs also called **Four Sights**, convinced him to renounce his life of luxury and set him on the path toward enlightenment after which he became Gautam Buddha or the Enlightened One.

He concluded that the solution was not withdrawal from the world but rather a practical life of compassion for all.

MAJOR TENETS OF BUDDHISM

The works containing information regarding early Buddhist philosophy are described as '**Tripitakas**', the three baskets of teaching which are-

1. **Vinayapitaka**- Rules of conduct of congregation (sangha)
2. **Suttapitaka**- Buddha's sermons and dialogues
3. **Abhidhammapitaka**- Exposition of Philosophical theories

FOUR NOBLE TRUTH

The Four Noble Truths are the most basic formulation of the Buddha's teaching which are as-

1. The world is full of suffering (dukha)
2. There is a cause of suffering (dukhasamudaya)
3. There is cessation/end of suffering (dukkhanirodha)
4. There is a way leading to the cessation/end of suffering (dukkhanirodh-marg)

EIGHT- FOLD NOBLE PATH

- The fourth Noble Truth lays down that there is a path (marg) to reach a state free from all sufferings.
- The path recommended by Buddha consists of 8 steps, therefore it is called 8 Noble Path or '**Astangikamarga**'

Wisdom	Right View
	Right Intention
Ethical Conduct	Right Speech
	Right Action
	Right Livelihood
Mental Development	Right Effort
	Right Mindfulness
	Right Concentration

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AIMS OF EDUCATION



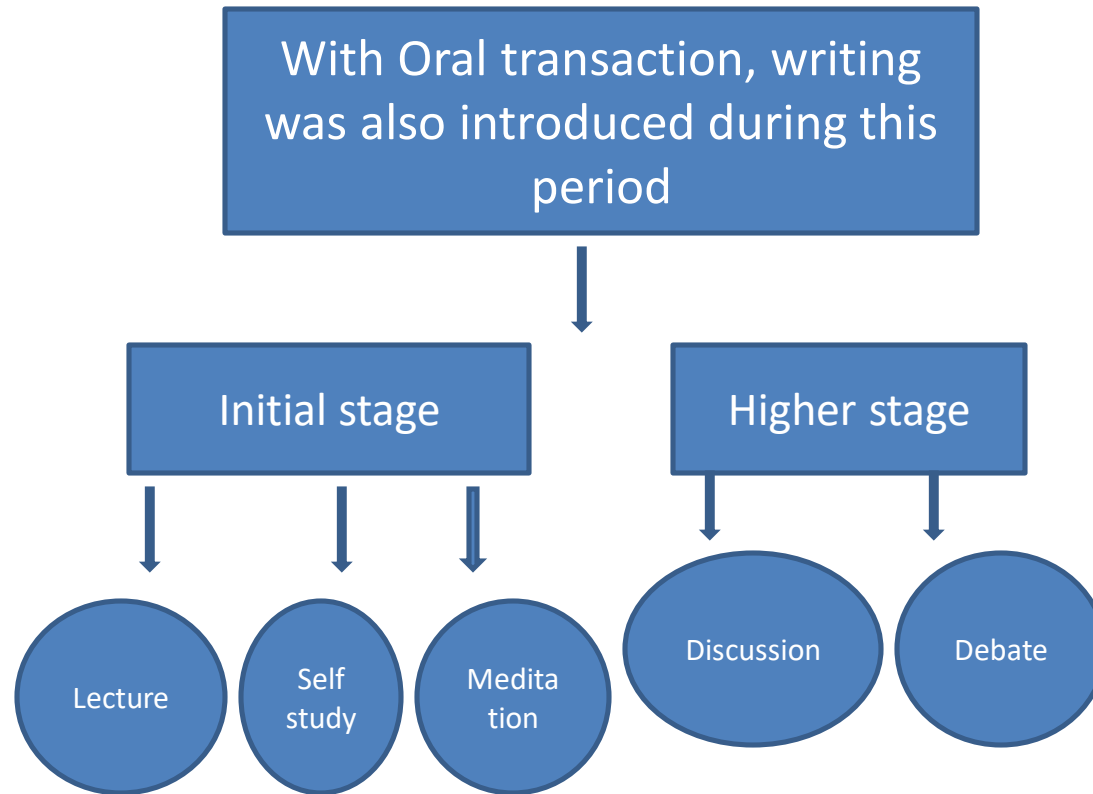
- Preparation for Nirvana or Liberation
- Awareness on the Four Noble Truths
- Enabling for following Eightfold paths
- Spreading the concept of 'Ahimsa'
- Character development
- Religious and Spiritual Development
- Physical & Intellectual Development
- Promotion of social efficiency, happiness and brotherhood
- Imparting practical knowledge

CURRICULUM



- Core ideas of Buddhism
- Reading, Writing & Arithmetic (3 R's)
- Grammar, Art,
- Medicine, Logic, Philosophy etc
- Agriculture, Astronomy, Astrology, Law

Method of Teaching



PABAJJA CEREMONY

It was the initial ceremony of starting education of a child. The meaning of Pabajja is to go out. So the child would go out of the home to join 'Sangha Vihara' or 'Buddha Vihara'

It was held when the child became 8 years old. The child would shave his head and would wear yellow clothes.

He would start the education by taking the oath

**“Buddham Sarnam Gachami
Dhammam Sharnam Gachami
Sangham Sarnam Gachami”**



UPASAMPADA CEREMONY



It is the convocational ceremony or the closing ceremony which would occur after 20 years of education at Vihara. After this ceremony the novice becomes a monk (Bhikshu). He will now not have any relationship with the family after this ceremony.

EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

It was a multi-teacher-multi student system. The student resided at Sangha Viharas where thousands of teachers would teach thousands of students. It was said to be the first institutionalized residential educational system in India.



QUALIFICATIONS AND DUTIES OF A TEACHER



- Bhikshus were teachers. They must have spent 10 years as a monk and must have the purity of character, thought & generosity.
- He must have high mental order so that he will be able to teach religion and nobleness
- Teachers were responsible for overall physical, mental and educational well being of the students.

Daily Routine of Disciples



- Regular service of guru
- In the morning the students would arrange for water, look after teacher's meal
- Cook food and clean utensils
- He would go out for alms
- He could not go anywhere without the permission of the teacher
- He has to keep the place tidy

School Administration

- All the educational schemes were conducted by Sanghas situated in monasteries and Viharas.
- Educational institutions were based on federal system.
- Teacher and taught lived together in Viharas and monasteries.
- There was democratic organisation of educational institution.
- There was no external interference in the administration of Sanghas

Contributions to Indian Education

- Provision of vocational education.
- Provision of education of worldly subjects.
- Encouragement of local languages
- Provision of primary education
- Democratic organisation of educational institutions.
- Centre of International education.

THANKYOU

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